

TOWN OF HARPSWELL
COMMUNICATIONS ADVISORY COMMITTEE
Meeting of September 29, 2008
Approved Minutes

Committee Members Present: Alan M. Shaver
C.V. Noyes
David I. Chipman

Town Staff Present: Melissa Swanson, Recording Secretary

The meeting opened at 3:10 PM at the Harpswell Town Office, 263 Mountain Road, Harpswell, Maine.

1. There was discussion regarding the written response from Jay Somers, Sr. Manager of Government Affairs for Comcast dated September 9, 2008, to a letter from the Harpswell Town Administrator dated August 26, 2008 regarding Comcast's "Triple Play" and the renewal of the Town's Franchise Agreement.
2. There was discussion of the definitions of "cable service" and "cable system" as referenced in §30.1 of the Franchise Agreement with Comcast.
3. Mr. Noyes stated that he had contacted other towns in the area with regard to a meeting to discuss their satisfaction with Comcast cable services. He said there wasn't any interest in such a meeting, and that most of the towns had about two years (or less) left on their franchise agreements with Comcast.
4. Responses received from the community regarding the Town Bulletin insert from August were reviewed and discussed.
5. Harpswell Community Broadcasting Corporation ("HSBC") would like to be able to upload data and real time moving video to their website. In order to do that, they would need a larger server and/or a loading server. It was also stated that the four area fire departments and the three area libraries would need modulators for outgoing signals. Fiber optic cable was also discussed as an option; whichever was most cost effective would be considered.
6. The current density requirement of 18 households/mile was discussed, and it was decided that the idea of 16 households/mile should be approached. §2.3.1 of the Franchise Agreement stated that the current extension policy was prorated for areas less than one mile and a minimum density of 18/mile, with seasonal occupation counted at half density.
7. The possibility of easier temporary disconnection of cable service for individual seasonal subscribers was discussed. The suggestion was made that those subscribers should be able to rent/buy a box that would allow that.

8. It was decided to make the duration of the new Franchise Agreement five years instead of the previous ten years due to the rapid advancement of new telecommunications technology.
9. The issue of new equipment for HCBC was discussed.
10. The issue of whether or not Comcast was for sale was discussed.

The meeting adjourned at 4:05 PM.

The next meeting will be Wednesday, October 1, 2008 at the Harpswell Town Office, with a Comcast representative in attendance for Franchise Agreement negotiations.

Respectfully submitted,

Melissa Swanson
Recording Secretary